

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The claims are 11-12. Claims 7-10 have been canceled in favor of new claim 12 to better define the invention. An amended abstract has also been provided. Support for the claims may be found *inter alia* in the disclosure at page 4, last full paragraph, in the drawing and in the original claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the abstract as containing more than one paragraph and as using legal phraseology. In response, applicants have amended the abstract to correct these informalities and it is respectfully requested that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

Claim 11 was allowed by the Examiner; however, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *U.S. Patent No. 3,975,956 to Peel* or *U.S. Patent No. 4,894,919 to Ziegert*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in new claim 12, Applicants invention provides a test article for standardized ascertainment of stress exerted on textile fabrics in assemblies that carry out washing, cleaning, or drying processes. The article includes a fabric having a plurality of interconnected threads and a plurality of boundary threads differing in color and/or size and/or constitution from the interconnected threads.

The interconnected threads are at least partially displaced or detached when subjected to mechanical stress during the washing, cleaning, or drying processes. The boundary threads form a plurality of subdivisions in the fabric as can be seen in FIG. 1. from which the interconnected threads (2 & 3 in Figure 1) extend to facilitate counting of the interconnected threads that are partially displaced or detached as a result of the stress exerted during the washing, cleaning, or drying processes.

By having the interconnected threads extend beyond the subdivisions formed by the boundary threads, an open border of the fabric results which facilitates the displacement and detachment of the threads by the other articles which are washed, cleaned or dried in the same processes. In addition, the

boundary threads which differ in one or more of color, size, or constitution facilitate the counting up of the threads which are detached or partially displaced.

Neither *Peel* nor *Ziegert* discloses or suggests a test article that permits a standardized ascertainment of stress exerted on textile fabrics in washing, cleaning, or drying assemblies. *Peel* simply discloses a support hosiery testing apparatus and method in which an apparatus measures the stretch or compressive forces of hosiery articles.

Ziegert discloses a garment pattern adaptation system in which a pattern is initially modified, and this modified pattern is used as a starting point for reductions in length and width which are dictated by the individual stretch characteristics of a particular fabric which will be used to make a finished garment. Although Figures 3a and 3b of *Ziegert* show a modified pattern that includes, for example waist lines, hip lines, and crotch lines, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a test article that can be used for standardized ascertainment of stress exerted on textile fabrics in assemblies carrying out washing, cleaning, or drying processes or of a fabric having the structure recited

in claim 12 in which a plurality of interconnected threads extend beyond subdivisions formed by boundary threads to facilitate counting of the interconnected threads partially displaced or detached as a result of the stress exerted during the washing, cleaning, or drying processes.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 12 is patentable over cited art together with claim 11 which the Examiner has already allowed.

In summary, claims 7-10 have been canceled and new claim 12 has been added. An amended abstract has also been provided.

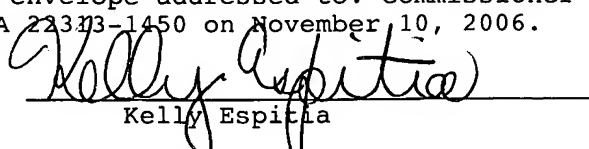
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22303-1450 on November 10, 2006.


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